1	2	3	4	5
5	Mizoram	271.89		271.89
6	Nagaland	161.56		161.56
7	Sikkim	212.6		212.6
8	Tripura	170.89		170.89
	TOTAL:	2411.64	250	2661.64

ADB : Asian Development Bank

Anusandhan Vikas Ratna and Anusandhan Mini Vikas Ratna

*147. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:
SHRI MOHAMMED AMIN:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to accord status of Anusandhan Vikas Ratna and Anusandhan Mini Vikas Ratna to some private companies in line with Raksha Udyog Ratna (RUR); and

(b) if so, the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI A.K. ANTONY): (a) and (b) No, Sir. However, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) is studying possibility of identifying industries, especially small and medium scale industries, who can become DRDO partners during product development, in highly specialised fields.

Import of pulses

†*148. SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH
MAJITHA: SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the import of pulses is being encouraged to increase their availability in the country;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the reasons for non-availability of those economic incentives to private sector's agencies which are available to Government agencies for the import of pulses; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) the reasons for not seeking cooperation of private sector in increasing the availability of pulses in the country?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) Government has taken a number of measures for augmenting domestic supplies; by permitting imports at zero duty, imposing a ban on export of pulses, and importing pulses through specified public sector agencies and cooperatives.

(c) and (d) Import of pulses is under OGL and can be imported by everyone including private sector. Free importability is continuing since more than 10 years. To encourage private traders to import pulses, import duty has been reduced to zero per cent on 8th June, 2006 from the earlier rate of 10%, and the zero per cent duty regime has been extended upto 31.3.2009.

In view of the substantially large quantities of pulses proposed to be imported by the concerned public sector agencies and cooperatives, over different periods of time, from different suppliers and in different lots, losses, if any, on account of import of pulses by the concerned public sector agencies and NAFED would qualify for some limited subsidy.

Facilities for freedom fighters.

†*149. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the freedom fighters in the country, State-wise;

(b) the facilities being provided by Government to these freedom fighters;

(c) whether any proposal for enhancing these facilities is under consideration of Government; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to enhance these facilities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MANIKRAO GAVIT): (a) Since the inception of the Freedom Fighters' Pension Scheme in 1972, the Central Government has sanctioned pension to approximately 1.70 lakh freedom fighters and their eligible dependents till 31st July, 2007. State-wise break-up of freedom fighters/dependents who have been sanctioned pension is given in Statement-I *{See* below).

(b) The details of facilities being provided by the Central Government to the freedom fighters are given in Statement-II *{See* below).

(c) and (d) The rates of Pension payable to freedom fighters were revised in October 2006 as indicated below:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi